



APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
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LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 H.R. 5121

SUMMARY

The legislative appropriations bill (H.R. 5121), as reported by the House Appropriations Committee on 15 July 2002, is consistent with the House-passed Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2003 (H. Con. Res. 353). The legislation also complies with the requirements of the

Congressional Budget Act. Conforming with a long practice – under which each chamber of Congress determines its own housekeeping requirements, and the other concurs without intervention – appropriations for the Senate are not included in the bill as reported to the House.

COST OF THE LEGISLATION

As reported, H.R. 5121 provides \$2.674 billion in new budget authority [BA] and \$2.853 billion in outlays for 2003 – increases of \$59 million in BA and \$108 million in outlays from fiscal year 2002 (assuming the 2003 outlay effect of enacting the House-passed supplemental appropriations bill, H.R. 4775). Outlays are increasing faster than BA largely

because outlays are still flowing from security-related appropriations in fiscal year 2002. If this measure is enacted as proposed, spending will have increased an average of 11.1 percent a year in each of the past 3 years. The bill does not contain emergency-designated new BA, or rescissions of previously enacted BA.

Table 1: Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations Bill ^a
(fiscal years; millions of dollars)

	2002 Enacted	Administration 2003 Request ^b	302(b) for 2003	2003 Bill
Budget Authority	2,615	2,714	2,678	2,674
Outlays	2,745	2,934	2,849	2,853

^a These numbers do not include any funds for the Senate.

^b By law, budget requests for the legislative branch are transmitted to the Congress by the Office of Management and Budget and the President without change in the amounts submitted by the originating agency.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

The bill complies with sections 302(f) and 311(a) of the Budget Act. The first of these prohibits consideration of bills in excess of a subcommittee's 302(b) allocation for new budget authority. The second, section 311(a), prohibits

consideration of legislation exceeding the aggregate levels of budget authority and outlays established in the concurrent resolution on the budget. The \$2.674 billion in new discretionary budget authority is \$4 million less than the

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302(b) allocation to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Legislative for all spending other than items for the U.S. Senate. Outlays of \$2.853 billion are \$4 million above the subcommittee's outlay allocation for such non-Senate spending. Nevertheless, the bill does not violate

section 302(f) because in the House the limits imposed by the 302(b) allocations apply only to budget authority.

Table 2 below shows a breakdown of spending provided by the bill.

Table 2: Discretionary Spending in the Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations Bill (in millions of dollars)		
	Budget Authority	Outlays
House of Representatives	962	969
Library Of Congress	509	527
General Accounting Office	454	434
Architect of the Capitol	340	399
Capitol Police	219	241
Government Printing Office	120	120
Congressional Budget Office	32	32
Other Joint Items	38	131

DISCUSSION

Overall, this bill is \$40 million in BA less than the President's budget primarily due to the following:

- A decrease for the Architect of the Capitol of \$51 million, from reductions in funding for the Capitol power plant (\$36 million), and for operating expenses for the Capitol (\$15 million).
- Miscellaneous reductions of \$10 million, including the Library of Congress (\$6 million), the Government Printing Office (\$2 million), and the General Accounting Office (\$1 million).
- An increase of \$12 million for the House of Representatives.
- An increase for the Capitol Police of \$7 million, providing additional funds for equipment, training, and other expenses.
- Miscellaneous increases totaling \$2 million. This amount consists of additional funds for the Russian Leadership Development Center Trust Fund (\$1 million), and additional funds for the Attending Physician (\$1 million).

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